

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 OPIC-03 XMB-02 /090 W

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R 211211Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8054

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14631

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJ: VISIT OF ADVISOR TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

1. DR. SABURO OKHITA, PRESIDENT OF OVERSEAS ECONOMIC CORPORATION FUND AND ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JULY 16 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN THAILAND. HE EXPLAINED HE WAS TOURING ASEAN COUNTRIES ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER MIKI TO ASSESS THE MOOD IN EACH COUNTRY IN THE WAKE OF INDO-CHINA COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER. UPON HIS RETURN TO TOKYO HE WOULD ADVISE THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING FOR HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

2. DR OKHITA HAS HAD LONG EXPERINECE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD INCLUDING SERVICE IN BANGKOK WITH ECAFE. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAILAND WOULD FIND WAYS TO COPE WITH COMMUNIST REGIMES ON ITS BORDERS, BUT HE HARBORS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS HANOI AND FULLY EXPECTS HANOI TO ACCELERATE ARMS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO INSURGENCY GROUPS THROUGHOUT ASEAN AREA. HE SAID GOJ HOPES TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC MISSITN IN HANOI IF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PRICE HANOI IS DEMANDING IS NOT TOO HIGH.

3. DR. OKHITA INDICATED GOJ HOPES TO EXERCISE A GROWING INFLUENCE  
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IN REGION PRIMARILY THROUGH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND PRIVATE

TRADE AND INVESTMENT. PROBLEM IS THAT JAPAN'S PROFILE MUST NOT BE TOO PROMINENT SINCE DR. OKHITA SAID IT HAD BEEN HIS EXPERIENCE THAT WHEN FOREIGN INVESTMENT REACHES 40PERCENT OF TOAL IN ANY COUNTRY, AS HAD BEEN THE CASE WITH THE USG IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AN ADVERSE REACTION SETS IN. THE SAME RULE WOULD APPLY IF THE TRADE BALANCE SHIFTED EXCESSIVELY IN FAVOR OF JAPAN. THEREFORE, FUTURE JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT IN ASEAN COUNTRIES MUST BE CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED. JAPAN WANTED A STRONG COHESIVE ASEAN AND WOULD SUPPORT INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE ONE THING JAPAN COULD NOT DO WAS PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR BECOME INVOLVED IN MILITARY AGREEMENTS OF ANY SORT, OKHITA SAID.

4. WE BELIEVE OKHITA WILL PROVIDE PRIME MINISTER MIKI WITH A REALISTIC, FACTUAL ASSESSMENT URGING CLSOE COORDINATION OF JAPANESE INITIATIVES WITH THE UNITED STATESWM HE STRIKES US AN AN ABLE. PRAGMATIC AND EXPERINECED OFFICIAL. THE DEFERENCE SHOWN HIM BY HIS COLLEAGUES FROM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN BANGKOK INDICATES HE ENJOYS A POSITION OF PROMINENCE.  
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